

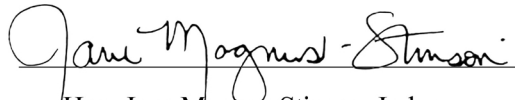


- Plaintiff does not properly allege the amount in controversy. The amount in controversy must exceed "\$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs." 28 U.S.C. § 1332. The "exclusive of interest and costs" language must be included in the amount in controversy allegation.

The Court is not being hyper-technical: Counsel has a professional obligation to analyze subject-matter jurisdiction, *Heinen v. Northrop Grumman Corp.*, 671 F.3d 669, 670 (7th Cir. 2012), and a federal court always has a responsibility to ensure that it has jurisdiction, *Hukic v. Aurora Loan Servs.*, 588 F.3d 420, 427 (7th Cir. 2009). The Court must know the details of the underlying jurisdictional allegations because parties cannot confer jurisdiction on the Court simply by stipulating that it exists. See *Evergreen Square of Cudahy v. Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority*, 776 F.3d 463, 465 (7th Cir. 2015) ("the parties' united front is irrelevant since the parties cannot confer subject-matter jurisdiction by agreement...and federal courts are obligated to inquire into the existence of jurisdiction *sua sponte*").

Accordingly, in order for the Court to determine whether it has diversity jurisdiction over this matter, the parties are **ORDERED** to conduct whatever investigation is necessary and file a Joint Jurisdictional Statement by **November 12, 2021**, properly setting forth the basis for this Court's jurisdiction. If agreement cannot be reached on the contents of a Joint Jurisdictional Statement, competing statements must be filed by that date.

Date: 10/21/2021

  
Hon. Jane Magnus-Stinson, Judge  
United States District Court  
Southern District of Indiana

**Distribution via ECF only to all counsel of record**